

Regular Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2009
6:00 pm
Chowan County Public Safety Center
305 West Freemason Street
Edenton, NC

MINUTES

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 6:00pm in the lobby of the Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street, Edenton, NC.

Present, Chairman Eddy Goodwin, Vice Chairman Emmett Winborne, Commissioner Jimmy Alligood, Commissioner Louis Belfield, Commissioner Kenny Goodwin, Commissioner Ralph Cole, and Commissioner Keith Nixon. Staff present: County Manager Peter Rascoe, Finance Officer Lisa Jones, and Clerk to the Board Susanne Stallings.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the meeting to order and let the group present in the pledge.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin then offered the invocation.

Public Comment

Chairman Eddy Goodwin then opened the floor to public comment in accordance with NCGS § 153A-52.1.

There was no public comment; Chairman Eddy Goodwin then closed the floor to public comment.

Organizational Meeting

Clerk to the Board, Susanne Stallings stated that she would moderate the election of Chairman in accordance with NCGS § 153A-39 (2). She stated that the Board of Commissioners must choose one of its members as Chairman. She then opened the floor to nominations.

Vice Chairman Emmett Winborne nominated Eddy Goodwin stating the Board's determination and hard work over the past year could be attributed to the leadership of Eddy Goodwin as Chairman.

There were no further nominations.

Ms. Stallings then closed the floor to nominations and asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Chairman Eddy Goodwin thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and stated that he hoped the Board would continue to work together to move forward.

He then opened the floor to nominations.

Commissioner Ralph Cole nominated Emmett Winborne as Vice Chairman.

There were no other nominations.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin closed the floor and asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said that appointments to the various Boards and Commissions would be made in January. He asked that if the Board members did not wish to be reappointed to the committees and Boards that they serve, to make him aware of their requests prior to the January meeting.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin presented the Board regular meeting schedule for 2010 and the Committee meeting schedule for 2010. He noted that additional meetings would be added to the schedule and times and locations may change during the year, but all changes or additions would be noticed properly.

Commissioner Keith Nixon moved that the Board approve the schedules as presented. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Chowan County Board of Commissioners 2010 Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location
January 4, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
February 1, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
February 25, 2009	8:30am	Public Safety Center 2nd Floor
March 1, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
March 25, 2009	8:30am	Northern Chowan Community Center
April 5, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
May 3, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
June 7, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
July 12, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
August 2, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
September 13, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
October 4, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
November 1, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
December 6, 2010	6:00pm	Regular Location
Regular location - Chowan County Public Safety Center, 305 West Freemason Street Edenton, NC		

Consent Agenda

Chairman Eddy Goodwin presented the consent agenda and asked the Board for their pleasure on each item.

a. Tax Release and Collector's Report (attached)

Brownridge, W.	\$1,031.72	House to be re-billed to son
Dudley, T.	\$244.27	Vehicle sold
Palmer, T.	\$119.52	Vehicle sold
Pavese, J.	\$506.85	Adjusted value after review
Price, S.	\$111.95	SITUS – Virginia
Timmco H.	\$904.32	Adjusted value of motor home
Byrum, C.	\$3,601.50	Re-billed on different parcel

b. Minutes

Minutes of the November 2, 2009 and November 17, 2009 meetings.

c. Recommended Budget Amendments

BA-0910-76

3418	Reg of Deeds	\$ 1,000	Increase revenue for deed of trust recording fee increases per GS 161-11.5
4180	Reg of Deeds	\$ 1,000	Increase expense to remit recording fee increase to State of NC general fund for additional fees imposed per State budget

BA-0910-77

3418	Reg of Deeds	\$ 1,000	Increase revenue for deed of trust filing fee increase per GS 161-11.6
4180	Reg of Deeds	\$ 1,000	Increase expense to remit deed of trust filing fee increase to NC Dept of Cultural Arts to provide records management & archival services for public records per State budget

BA-0910-78

3531	DSS	\$30,467	Increase revenue from NC Division of Child Care for day care
5345	DSS	\$30,467	Increase expense for day care direct services

BA-0910-79

3471	Solid Waste	\$11,418	Increase revenue from NCDENR for white goods grant received 11/5/09
4710	Solid Waste	\$11,418	Increase expense to remit white goods grant to PCG landfill to supplement cost for disposal of white goods per agreement

BA-0910-80

3326	Senior Cntr	\$12,653	Increase revenue from Albemarle Commission grant for Senior Center general purpose operations
4268	Senior Cntr	\$12,653	Increase expense for general operating purposes covered by grant to include salary & benefits for part time employment instructors, office & departmental supplies and travel (25% match required which will be covered by Senior Center Director's salary)

BA-0910-81

3326	Senior Cntr	\$ 902	Increase revenue for grant from Albemarle Commission for health promotion activities
4268	Senior Cntr	\$ 902	Increase expense for health risk assessments & screenings, fitness & exercise programs and mental health services (10% match required covered by Senior Center Director's salary)

BA-0910-82

3493	CDBG	\$91,749	Increase revenue from CDBG Scattered Site Housing grant (100% funding – no match required)
4930	CDBG	\$91,749	Increase expenses for CDBG Scattered Site Housing grant for clearance, demolition and rehabilitation activities associated with grant

(Grant carryover – originally adopted 1/7/08)

BA-0910-83

3531	DSS	\$23,465	Increase revenue from DHHS for Crisis funding
5372	DSS	\$23,465	Increase expense for crisis related expenditures

BA-0910-84

3414	Tax	\$15,000	Increase revenue for tax overpayments received
4140	Tax	\$15,000	Increase expense to refund tax overpayments

BA-0910-85

3418	Deeds	\$ 300	Decrease revenue for marriage license fees (revenue projection overestimated)
4180	Deeds	\$ 300	Decrease expense to remit marriage license fees to State of NC

BA-0910-86

3839	PSC	\$ 255	Increase revenue for reimbursement received from Town of Edenton for direct telephone charges at PSC
4252	PSC	\$ 255	Increase expense for Town of Edenton direct telephone charges at PSC

BA-0910-87

75	DMV Interest	\$ 3,750	Increase revenue for DMV interest collected for State of NC
75	DMV Interest	\$ 3,750	Increase expense for DMV interest remitted to the State of NC per House Bill 1779 – Session Law 2005-294

BA-0910-88

3835	Sale of Prop	\$32,095	Increase revenue from sale of County property – Albemarle Learning Center 12/1/09
9841	Reserve	\$32,095	Increase contribution to General Fund reserve

Commissioner Alligood moved to approve the Tax Release and Collectors Report as presented. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Belfield moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin asked for clarification on BA 0910-79.

Mr. Rascoe said that this amount is additional monies not budgeted but it was sent to PCG.

Mr. Rascoe provided information on BA 0910-80 he said this was a grant from the Division of Aging to allow for accreditation and a temporary employment position.

Commissioner Nixon asked how many hours per week the position would work.

Mr. Rascoe said he was not sure but less than 20 hours is what he expects. Commissioner Nixon said he would like to see the existing position receive more hours without going over the benefits requirement in the personnel manual.

Mr. Rascoe said that BA 0910-82 is remaining monies from a CDBG Scattered Site Housing Grant to cover two more houses. He said the grant is a pass through and will allow the grant to close out with no additional cost to the County.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin clarified that if the grant money was not carried over, the County would have to pay out monies.

Mr. Rascoe agreed that if not carried over, the County is liable for expenses incurred.

Mr. Rascoe said he was happy to announce the closing of the Albemarle Learning Center which is shown in BA 0910-88. He said that the County was able to pay off the remaining notes with the USDA and BB&T. He said that the remaining monies of \$32,095 are available and the Boys and Girls Club will owe the remaining due in the amount of \$23,000 payable over the next five (5) years. He noted that Lee Baker has signed a lease for the pasture land and added that all farm rent for the County has been collected.

Commissioner Allgood moved that the Board approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Public Hearing – Wharf Landing Road Request

Paul Waff, the developer of Wharf Landing stated that he has requested the Board's consideration of approval for changing the name of "Wildlife Access Road" (SR 1288) to "Wharf Landing Road". He said the current name of the road causes confusion for visitors to the development. He said that signage for the ramp will still be in place. He said that this request was brought to him by residents of the development.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin opened the floor for the public hearing in accordance with the statutes. He asked for public comments or questions on the request (there were none). He then closed the floor for the public hearing.

Commissioner Ralph Cole moved that the Board approve the request to change the road name to "Wharf Landing Road".

Chairman Eddy Goodwin clarified that the developer will assume all costs for the signage for the road name change. Mr. Rascoe said that the developer has agreed to this and has assumed all advertisement and notification costs.

Ms. Stallings noted that one resident of the development, Dr. Wilson called the Manager's office to speak in favor of the road name change. She stated there were no other calls and that all adjoining property owners were notified as well as notice of the public hearing being posted at two area businesses.

Being no further discussion, Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

ABC Board update

Chairman of Chowan County's ABC Board, Haywood Costen presented a PowerPoint DVD on the required responsibilities of the ABC Board. He then presented the proposed schedules on operations and revenue distributions. He presented the current financial operations and presented a proposal on compensation for the ABC Board members as required in the Statutes. Mr. Coston noted that the renovation on the ABC Building was originally \$350,000 and the remaining owed is \$147,000. He said the goal of the ABC Board is to maintain communication with the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Winborne asked what the monthly payment on the mortgage was.

Mr. Costen said \$3,018 per month. He said the Board hopes to pay this off early.

Commissioner Cole asked if the upgrades now have all the computer programs up to date.

Mr. Costen said yes. He said the Board wishes to pay the County \$10,000 per quarter. He said that the staff of the ABC store has been very helpful and diligent in ensuring that the bills are paid and the distributions are made.

Mr. Rascoe asked Mr. Costen if the Board could provide the Board of Commissioners with the financial statements each month and include copies of the minutes.

Mr. Costen said that would not be a problem.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin asked if the County budgeted for \$10,000 per quarter.

Mr. Rascoe said this is the goal of the ABC Board but the County only budgeted for ½ that amount.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said he has spoken with Mr. Costen and he feels that it is the goal of Mr. Costen to do the right thing for Chowan County. He said that the Board has presented a proposal of paying the Chairman of the ABC Board \$200 per month and the Board members \$75 per month. He said this would also be the amounts per diem.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin stated that he appreciates the work of the ABC Board but he did not understand why the pay was more for this Board than other Boards.

Mr. Costen said that the Board and the Chairman are essentially running a business that generates revenue for the County. He said that the Board manages a store manager and the employees. He said he is personally in the store 2-3 days per week and that considering the work that he is responsible for, the amount is adequate.

Commissioner Cole said this Board does more than just meet once per month.

Mike Brown stated that the pay for the Board members has not been adjusted in 30 years. He said that the Board provides oversight for the store and is legally responsible for it. He said the pay is within the limits of the budget for the ABC operations and is compatible with surrounding stores.

Commissioner Nixon said he was under the impression that the salary of the Chairman has decreased from the previous Chairman. He said his concern was allowing any increase for the other Board members in the current economic climate.

Mr. Costen said the Board members were previously being paid \$50 per meeting. He said that one of the Board members travels the entire length of the County to attend meetings and the stipend barely covers his gas expenses for 2 meetings per month.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked if there was any public comment on the request.

Bill Robbins said he was an employee at the store and holds the most respect for the Board members. He said that he understands the concerns of the Board but he does not feel that the request is unreasonable when the pay has not increased over the past 30 years. He said the savings from the reduction of the previous Chairman's salary is more than the additional cost for the Board member salaries.

There was no further public comment.

Commissioner Louis Belfield said he did not feel the pay was excessive and moved that the Board approve the request.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion passed (4-3 K. Goodwin, Winborne, Nixon).

Jail Medical Costs

Mr. Rascoe noted that the jail has negotiated an agreement with the Jail's medical expense carrier for the delay of payment of certain expense until FY 2010-11. He said an explanative memo was attached for the Board's consideration. Mr. Rascoe said the negotiated amount would be due in the FY 2010-11 budget.

Deputy Andy Bunch said the Jail was billed after the fact for medical costs.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said the State did not bill the County's carrier. He stated that any inmate medical costs are required to be paid by each county in the State.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin asked if there would be interest penalties on the amount owed.

Deputy Bunch said no, the carrier has agreed to postpone the fees.

Commissioner Alligood asked if the County has the funds to pay the bills now.

Mr. Rascoe said that budgetary adjustments have been made for some of the expense.

Deputy Bunch explained that the monthly premiums have been budgeted to be paid for the remainder of the year.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin stated that he wanted it to be clear to the public that the State put the County in this position by holding the billing over a year.

Deputy Bunch said that he and the Sheriff are monitoring the jail population on a daily basis for potential costs. He stated that the large cost to the County was for an emergency gall bladder surgery. He said that the particular inmate could not be moved because of the charges that he was being held under.

Commissioner Winborne asked if an inmate comes in with insurance, could that be covered by private insurance.

Deputy Bunch said that the law does not allow private insurance to cover medical costs for inmates.

Commissioner Nixon said this information was presented to the Finance Sub Committee for consideration several months ago. He stated that the Sub Committee recommended that the Sheriff try to negotiate a way to cover the expense to keep the Board from spending the reserve monies to cover the costs.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin said the County is going to have to monitor the expenses for the current and upcoming years, but inmate medical costs are something that cannot be planned for in budgeting.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin moved that the Board approve the negotiated offer.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Board Appointment

Board Clerk, Susanne Stallings stated that only one application has been received since July for the vacancy on the Albemarle Chapter of the American Red Cross. She said that Forrest Willis has expressed interest in the appointment.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin moved that the Board appoint Mr. Willis to this Board.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin asked for all in favor, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Chairman Eddy Goodwin noted that there is a vacancy on the Chowan County Planning Board for the seat held by Bill Monds who recently passed away. He said that persons interested in

being considered for this appointment should fill out an application and submit it to the Clerk to the Board.

Board Clerk, Susanne Stallings said this notice would be placed online as well.

Internal Committee Report

Chairman Eddy Goodwin noted that no internal committees met in the month of November.

External Committee Reports

Commissioner Ralph Cole noted that the DSS Board has selected a Director Clifton Hardison

He added that the Hospital Directors Council reports that the heliport at the Hospital would be open soon.

Commissioner Belfield noted that the ARHS Board has met and good financial information was reported. He said that funding for indigent mammograms has been discontinued. He said the status of the HVAC at the Chowan County Health Department Building is in need of repairs.

Commissioner Kenny Goodwin said the PCG Board met and is sending out RFP's for hauling. He said the mileage quote was added because of hauling from Soundside Road and Hancock Station convenience sites in Chowan County is not feasible. He said he was seeking direction from the other Board members to explore the feasibility of partnering with the Town of Edenton or hauling direct to Bertie County from these sites to reduce the hauling back and forth of the trash from these sites to Bertie. He noted that previously these sites were going to the PCG transfer station in Perquimans County before going to Bertie Landfill. He said that he could not see how this was economical for Chowan County. There were no comments in the negative and Commissioner Kenny Goodwin said he would ask the County Manager to begin discussions with the Town Manager to see if this is an option.

Finance Officer Report

Finance Officer Lisa Jones provided the Cash Balance Summary and Cash and Investment balance information for the month of October noting a total of \$3,789,552 total cash and investments. She shared information on the General Fund Revenue/Expenses, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds and Debt Setoff totals.

Commissioner Nixon said he liked the format of the new reports from the Finance Officer.

Manager's Report

County Manager Peter Rascoe provided the Manager's Report highlighting the following items:

- The Albemarle Learning Center has closed and debt on that property has been paid off. The County will realize an additional \$ 23,000 coming within the next five years from the Boy's and Girls Club
- The Board has received a copy of the Albemarle Mental Health Audit showing a \$900,000 deficit. He said that a representative from East Carolina Behavioral Health will come to the January meeting to discuss the future of mental health in Chowan County.

- There is still no word from the VA Clinic. Mr. Rascoe said he was told that the County would be notified by December 13th. He noted that the power has been turned back on at the building to operate the lights in the parking lot for security.
- The Wildlife Resources Commission has awarded a contract to RPC construction out of Kitty Hawk. The projected completion of the fishing pier is March 2010.
- The sale of the Ag. Center property is set to close on Thursday or Friday.
- A letter has been provided to the Board members explaining the anticipated increase in costs for employee retirement as required by the State Treasurer.
- The Water Department Engineer is seeking funding for monies to remedy the Valhalla Water Plant Discharge Permit violation
- Mr. Rascoe was contacted by a company interested in partnering with the County on recycling oyster shells.

Timely and Important Matters

Chairman Eddy Goodwin expressed his and citizen concerns on the intersection of Sandy Ridge and Hwy 32 at the Elementary Schools. He also asked the Manager to look into the intersection at Rocky Hock Rd and Hwy 32 at Smalls Crossroad. He asked the Manager to discuss these concerns with DOT.

Chairman Eddy Goodwin thanked the public for their participation in the past year. He said that there have been tough times in the past year but the Board is working hard and working together to ensure that the County maintains a balanced budget while building reserves. He thanked the Administrative Staff present for their work and acknowledged the work of the Department Heads over the past year to do more with less. He encouraged the public to continue reaching out to the Board with suggestions and concerns.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Edward C. Goodwin, Chairman

L. Susanne Stallings, Clerk